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26 September 1947

MEMORANDUM TO ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS

SUBJECT: FBI Coverage of Press Transmissions and Dispatches

Following our recent conversation concerning FBI code interception, a study of our present coverage has been made, the results of which are summarized below:

1. FBI Bureau (excluding [redacted] cover press transmissions and dispatches from [redacted])

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[redacted] coverage of press transmissions from [redacted]

25X1C
25X1

2. FBI operators copy approximately 30,000 words daily, about 2,000 words per man-day, some 10,000 words of which are published in the Daily Report. The net yield of press material per man-hour appears roughly comparable to that of voice material, both of which diminish sharply with additional coverage of identical areas.

3. Although FBI does not have complete information concerning available Morse and Hellachreider transmissions comparable to its compilations of voice schedules, experiments conducted at [redacted] indicate that most Pacific transmissions not now monitored are either of marginal value or so irregular as to prohibit economical coverage.

25X1A

It is believed that additional coverage of Latin American press transmissions by some 4,000 words daily would be possible if the value of Latin American material is considered sufficient to warrant an increase in the [redacted] table of organization by three intercept operators.

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It is probable that [redacted] includes all transmissions which might fill significant gaps in European voice coverage, but it is recommended that after the relocation of [redacted] Bureau an exploration be made of potential press coverage there.

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Deputy Chief, FBI

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